

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HAVANA 02566 252203Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 2566

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES FROM LANE

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG PEPR CH CU
SUBJ: DEMARCHE TO PRC ON PUERTO RICO

REF: STATE 216155

1. WHILE I CERTAINLY AGREE WITH THE THRUST AND INTENT OF YOUR APPROACH TO THE CHINESE ON THIS PROBLEM, THERE IS A QUESTION OF NUANCE IN PARAS 6 AND 7 OF REFTEL UPON WHICH I WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT. IF THE IMPORT OF THE REFERENCES TO GOC'S ATTEMPTS TO DISTORT THE NAM IS THAT IT IS TRYING TO FOIST OFF ON OTHER NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES CUBA'S OWN EXTREME POSITION ON PUERTO RICO, I HAVE NO OBJECTION. WHILE I HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF CUBA'S EFFORTS TO PERSUADE OTHERS, I DON'T DOUBT THAT THEY ARE TRYING TO DO SO. BUT IF THE IMPLICATION IS THAT CUBA'S ESPOUSAL OF AN OBNOXIOUS POSITION ON PUERTO RICO REFLECTS PRIMARILY ITS OWN ALIGNMENT WITH THE SOVIET UNION, AND IS THEREFORE ANOTHER INSTANCE OF DOING THE SOVIETS' BIDDING, THEN I RESPECTFULLY DISAGREE.

2. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS HAPPY TO
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HAVE THE PUERTO RICAN ISSUE VENTILATED IN ANY FORUM TO EMBARRASS US. BUT I ALSO BELIEVE THAT FIDEL CASTRO WOULD HAVE PRESSED THE MATTER EVEN IF HE HAD NEVER HEARD OF THE USSR OR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM. PUERTO RICO'S INDEPENDENCE HAS BEEN SUPREMELY A PART OF CASTRO'S OWN INTELLECTUAL BAGGAGE SINCE HIS UNIVERSITY DAYS, AS IT HAS BEEN A HOBBY HORSE OF CUBAN INTELLECTUALS AND RADICALS

IN GENERAL AT LEAST SINCE THE DAYS OF JOSE MARTI. I
THEREFORE FEAR THAT USING THIS SORT OF ARGUMENT WITH SOME
GOVERNMENTS WHICH ARE AWARE OF THIS HISTORY COULD HURT
RATHER THAN SUPPORT OUR BASIC CASE.
LANE

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